



Charlene Smith

Charlene, retired RN, Oneida, is recognized for her endless dedication, genuine caring and continuous selfless giving to others. She is lovingly known in her community as the “Friendly Indian Nurse” and is a strong advocate for the betterment of the Indian community. A brilliant spokesperson, Charlene, passionately educates the broader community on issues that impact Urban Indians. Charlene has been a member of The American Indian Task Force on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (AITF) for 12 years, educating the Native American community on these issues. Now a board member, she has been actively involved with the Indian Council for 10 years. She assists Elders in her community by connecting them to resources, making home visits, and providing rides.

As a Wisconsin Pink Shawl member, Charlene travels throughout the state to Indian Reservations, educating the Native Community on Breast Health. To raise funds for this organization she teaches Native jewelry making to the Native community on her visits. She often brings her granddaughter along to Pink Shawl events and meetings, passing on the experience and demonstrating the importance of volunteering. Additionally, Charlene is a Komen for the Cure Conversation leader and an ABCD (After Breast Cancer Diagnosis) family mentor and instructor. For over 15 years, Charlene has been singing with the Oneida Hymn Singers, volunteers her performance time at funerals, schools, Indian Summer and other special events.

Many community organizations such as the Indian Elderly, W.O.L.F. and the Retired Nurses Association are happy she is retired as they benefit from her countless hours of time and talent. Charlene is not only an avid community volunteer, she is a role model to her family and her Indian Community. Her great attitude, warm caring personality, and embracing hugs make her easy to like and hard to forget, even after the very first time you meet her.

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Senior Citizen Hall of Fame**